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## THE DEPARTURES OF KHOMEINI AND BREZHNEV

Relations with Iran and the Soviet Union are vital to the US, and the leaders of both countries will soon depart. Are the US Government--in particular the intelligence community--fully prepared to cope with these events and to turn them to our national advantage?

Have we prepared for publication the analyses policymakers will start yelling for the instant news of either leader's departure comes over the wires? These analyses should explain:

- (a) How the governments of Iran and the Soviet Union will operate in the period immediately following the event.
- (b) How the succession mechanism works.
- (c) Who the contenders are.
- (d) Which contenders we prefer, and why.
- (e) What decisions, if any, must be made immediately by the government of Iran and the Soviet Union.
- (f) Which countries, if any, might seek to use the departure for their own purposes. [What will be the effect of Khomeini's departure on Iraq? How will Moscow respond? What will be the effect of Brezhnev's departure on the Polish government?]

Have we considered the various initiatives the US Government might take immediately after the departure of Khomeini and Brezhnev? For instance, when Khomeini goes should the President issue a statement to the Iranian people

calling for a renewal of US-Iranian friendship? Is there any concrete gesture we could make--some financial or diplomatic sore we could heal? In the case of Brezhnev's departure, can we put some new carrots on the arms-limitation table?

At the very least, we could score some propaganda coups--which matter very much indeed. But we need to do our thinking and our preparation now.